norms for power utilities. The norms are applied while deciding on allocation of coal to power generation units. Ministry of Power is also impressing upon coal consuming power utilities to improve their thermal efficiency so as to optimize coal consumption. Subsidiaries of Coal India are modernizing coal mining techniques by introducing latest technology to optimize production and reduce wastage.

(c) Import of coal is not done centrally. Since coal is under Open General Licence (OGL), consumers are free to import coal based on their requirements. It is expected that the gap between indigenous supply and demand of coal during 2005-06 will be met to a large extent through import of coal by power, steel and cement sectors and other industries.

(d) By and large, coal is imported by individual consumers from Indonesia, South Africa, Australia and China, to supplement indigenous supplies. The landed cost of imported coal will depend upon the negotiated cost with the vendor and also distance from pithead to unloading port.

Utilisation of fund allocated for the protective works

*356. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that less than 40 per cent of funds allocated for the protective works during the first three years of the Tenth Plan have been utilized by the coal companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have directed the coal companies that all the schemes approved by CCSDA Committee are completed in a time bound programme; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The budgetary allocation is made for "Stowing and Protective Works and R & D" under the head Assistance to Coal and Lignite Companies in the form of subsidies. The allocation of funds during the first three years of the Tenth Plan and actual reimbursement under this head is as follows:

Year	Allocation of funds (Rs. crores)	Actual reimbursement (Rs. crores)
2002-03	66.05	66.05
2003-04	64.00	64.00
2004-05	100.03	100.03

(c) and (d) Coal Conservation and Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) is constituted under Coal Mines (Conservation & Development) Rules. 1975 and approves only firmed up schemes for protective works which are to be completed within a definite time frame. The programme approved by the CCDAC and actual work undertaken by the coal companies for the last three years are as under:

Year	Programme approved by CCDAC (Rs)	Actual works undertaken by the Coal companies (Rs.)	% Achievement w.r.t. approved programme
2002-03	99,858,371	82,547,981	82.67
2003-04	62,879,408	50,869,230	80.90
2004-05	114,164,540	94,547,895	82.82

Pace of National Highway construction

*357. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pace of National Highway construction has accelerated to 7.5 km a day and committed to fast-track development of infrastructure, especially roads and ports by creating more jobs;

(b) if so, the present position of the construction of each National Highway;

(c) the amount spent for each Highway; and

(d) the details of the employment provided in each category, highway-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Government is committed to the fast track development of Infrastructure especially National Highways network and